

NOTE ON THE GLACIAL PERIOD IN AUSTRALIA.

BY R. VON LENDENFELD, PH.D.

In the proceedings of the Linnean Society of N.S.W., Vol. X., Part I., I have given a description of the valleys around Mount Kosciusco, and have stated as the result of my examination of those parts, that—(1.) The plateau in the central part of the Australian Alps, was glaciated not so very long ago, and since, that part of Australia had obtained its present aspect, down to a height of 5,800, and (2.) No traces of pre-historic glaciers have been observed by me in the Kosciusco Group of Mountains below the height given above.

Recently I have seen some photographs of glacier polished rocks, which being siluro-devonian, and not granitic as those observed by me on Mount Kosciusco, have retained the striæ or scratches made by the hard stones imbedded in the bottom of the ice stream which once moved over them, very well.

These rocks are situated in the Mount Lofty Group of Mountains near Adelaide, and while their appearance furnishes an additional proof to my statement, that Australia had been subject to glaciation; it shows at the same time that near the southern coast the glaciers must have descended much further than round Mount Kosciusco, as the height of the lofty mountains barely exceeds 2,000 feet.

It appears doubtful, however, whether the striæ referred to are isochrone with the glacial traces I discovered on Mount Kosciusco.